



THE
NUTSH
SERIES



INDUSTRIE
OF
QUEENSLA
AUSTRALIA

Sheep and Wool

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SHEEP and WOOL.

MAP
OF
QUEENSLAND
SHOWING WHERE
BULK OF SHEEP
ARE RAISED

THE AREA OF QUEENSLAND IS 429,120,000 ACRES

EDITED
BY
ESSEX EVANS.



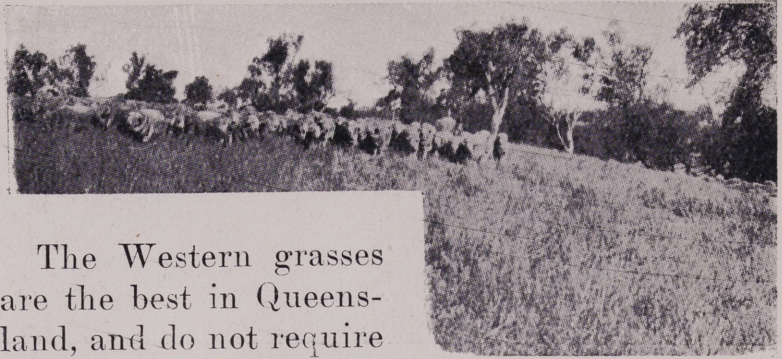
Sheep in Yards.



SHEEP & WOOL

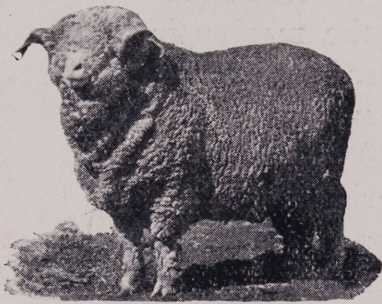
QUEENSLAND, the vast north-eastern State of the Australian Commonwealth, is a country of magnificent natural resources. Not the least of these are the great tracts of inland country, heavily covered with succulent grasses, which constitute the true home of the merino sheep. Here the merino is to be counted by the hundred thousand. Nevertheless, much of Queensland's immense territory (429,120,000 acres) has never been developed, and cries aloud for men with capital, as well as men with nothing but their stout hearts and strong hands, to utilise her empty spaces.

The mean annual rainfall varies considerably. Along the Pacific slope it runs approximately from 48 inches at Brisbane to 150 inches in the far North. West of the Great Dividing Range the rainfall diminishes from 30 inches to about 10 inches, according to the distance from the Main Range.



The Western grasses are the best in Queensland, and do not require the same amount of moisture as those on the coastal lands. In their dry state they have the nutritive properties of the best hay.

Of all Queensland industries the Pastoral is still the most important, as it contributes nearly half of all the exports of home production. Of this half, by far the largest proportion is represented by sheep and wool.



At the end of 1907 the number of sheep in Queensland was estimated at 16,738,047. With the good seasons prevailing, and the heavy lambings recorded, the number of

sheep in the State should now reach over 20,000,000.

Most of these sheep—in fact, all but about 4 per cent. of the whole number—are of the merino type. They are depastured on the great Western plains, where the flocks frequently exceed 100,000, and in some cases over 200,000.



Shropshire Sheep on the Darling Downs.



A Lincoln Ewe.

On the lands more adjacent to the coast—which is unsuitable for fine - woolled sheep—and in parts of the country other

than the West—the stronghold of the merino—the English mutton breeds are coming into favour. These are at present chiefly raised on the Darling Downs stations, as an adjunct to breeding merinoes, and on farms, as a constituent of mixed farming.

The mutton breeds most in favour are the Lincoln, Leicester, Southdown, Shropshire, and a few Romney Marsh sheep, either apart or crossed with the merino.

**HOW THE
SHEEP ARE
DISTRIBUTED.**

In three districts of Queensland the number of sheep exceeded 1,000,000—namely, Longreach, 1,174,512; Muttaborra, 1,151,596; and Richmond, 1,013,394. Four districts each contained more than 800,000—namely, Cunnamulla, 880,212; Winton, 830,827; St. George, 825,571; and Blackall, 808,207.

**THE AREA OF QUEENSLAND IS
429,120,000 ACRES.**

These seven districts, occupying the major portion of the central belt of Queensland, extending from north to south, together comprised 6,684,319 sheep, or 40 per cent. of the whole number.

The district of Mitchell, which includes Longreach, Muttaborra, Aramac, Blackall, and Isisford, depastures nearly one-third of all the sheep in the State.



Sheep on Good Country.

**SIZE OF
HOLDINGS.**

In addition to the large sheep runs, which sometimes exceed 2,000 square miles in area—and are owned by companies, or wealthy men—there are a great number of smaller stations of 200 square miles and under. In the more settled districts some of the best stud-breeding establishments, which supply rams to the great Western flocks, are only 40,000 to 100,000 acres in extent.

**QUEENSLAND OFFERS TO SETTLERS THE
BEST TERMS IN AUSTRALIA.**



Ewes and Lambs, Oakwood, Western Queensland.

A considerable proportion of sheep are held on selections of from 20,000 to 60,000 acres. These selections are called Grazing Farms, and are well suited to men of moderate capital. This class of wool-growers is an annually increasing one. In fact, the growing demand for land in small areas for sheep-breeding and growing wool is one of the most satisfactory features of the industry.



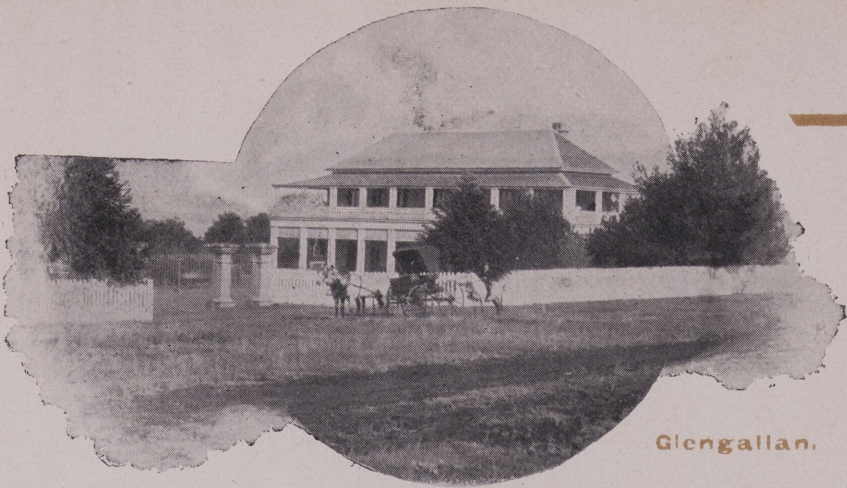
Typical
Pastoral
Country.

Crown lands used for sheep may be divided into classes, as follows:—

Pastoral holdings, ranging in size from 60,000 acres to 2,000 square miles and over.

Grazing selections, from 2,560 acres to 60,000 acres.

Some of the small stations are freehold, and some of the large squatters often own freehold blocks in addition to renting large leaseholds from the Crown.

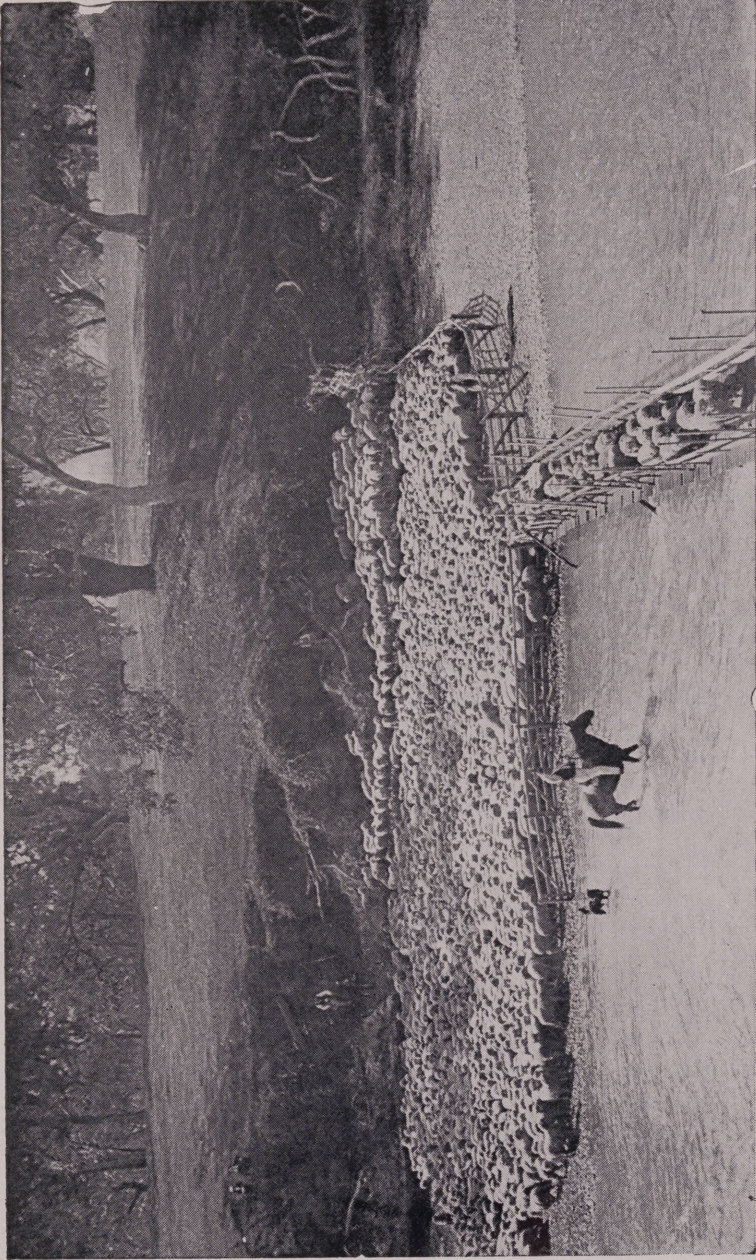


Glengallan.

In time of drought the loss of sheep was much heavier than that of cattle and horses. This was largely due to overstocking, and to lack of proper provision for water. On the other hand, in good seasons, wool-growing is one of the most satisfactory pursuits in the State. During the last two years sheep-owners have been literally coining money.

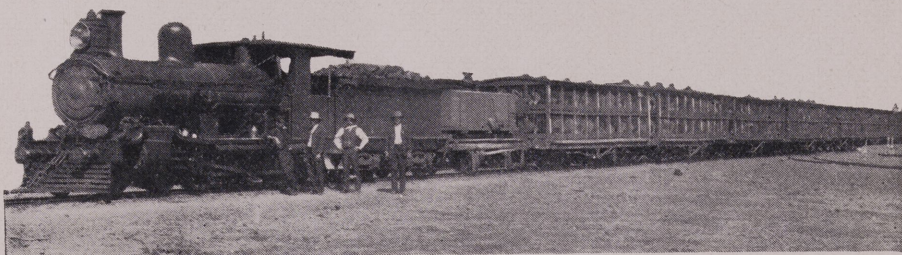
As already stated, sheep are largely depastured in the Western districts, where droughts more frequently occur, and naturally are not so easily removed to more congenial pasture, whilst their range from the nearest available water is much more limited. But the increase in good years is so rapid that losses are marvellously retrieved. From 7,000,000 in 1902, when the number of sheep in the State touched its lowest point, to over 20,000,000 in 1908, shows an increase of 13,000,000 in six years, irrespective of the numbers killed for consumption or exported.





Sheep Crossing a River on a Temporary Bridge

It is probable, however, that no such losses as were experienced in the drought of 1902, which was almost universal in Queensland, will again occur. Every year the railways are being further extended into



Train Load of Fat Sheep.

the West and North, and the Government policy of linking-up these lines is annually making it easier for stock to be trucked from grass-depleted areas to relief country. The heavy losses that occurred in 1902, when stock were too weak to travel, would have been lessened had railway communication been as practicable as it is to-day.

The severe drought, commencing in the early nineties, was first reflected by the sheep, whose maximum number of 21,708,310 was reached in 1892, two years earlier than the like experience with regard to cattle. The minimum number, 7,738,047, was reached in 1902. Annual increases have brought the number up to the figures of 1907—viz., 16,738,047—irrespective of all



Merino Stud Ewes.



East Talgai.



Merino Stud Rams



Western Stud Merinoes.

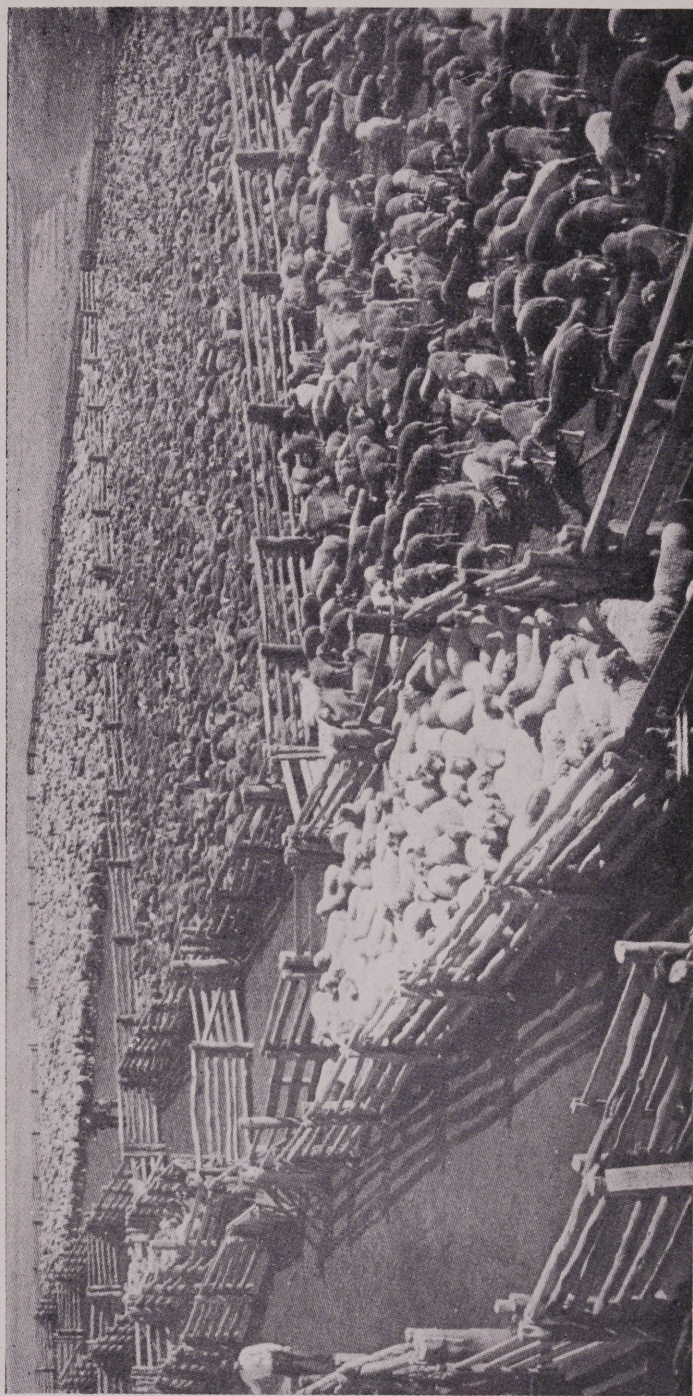
consumed and exported, and the returns for 1908 should approximate 20,000,000.

SIZE OF FLOCKS FOR TEN YEARS.

Year.	Owners.	Sheep.	Average Flock.
1898	1,835	17,552,608	9,565
1899	1,897	15,226,479	8,027
1900	1,950	10,339,185	5,302
1901	2,018	10,030,971	4,970
1902	2,052	7,213,985	3,516
1903	1,914	8,392,044	4,385
1904	1,993	10,843,470	5,441
1905	2,269	12,535,231	5,525
1906	2,448	14,886,438	6,081
1907	2,748	16,738,047	6,091

In 1907 more people owned sheep than in any previous year of the decade.

In 1907 1,031,326 sheep were exported, as compared with 641,177 in 1898.



A Day's Shearing: 4,000 Sheep in the Yards.

Imported 1907 240,704, as compared with 158,843 in 1898. The imports were less than a fourth of the exports.



Three-year old Western Wethers: Weights 56 lb. to 76 lb.

SIZES OF FLOCKS OF SHEEP, 1907.

608	persons owned	12,938	sheep.	Flock	50 and under
959	„	373,437	„	„	51 to 1,000
584	„	1,523,778	„	„	1,001 to 5,000
390	„	3,911,611	„	„	5,001 to 20,000
207	„	10,916,283	„	„	20,001 and upwards
<hr/>					
2,748	„	16,738,047	„		

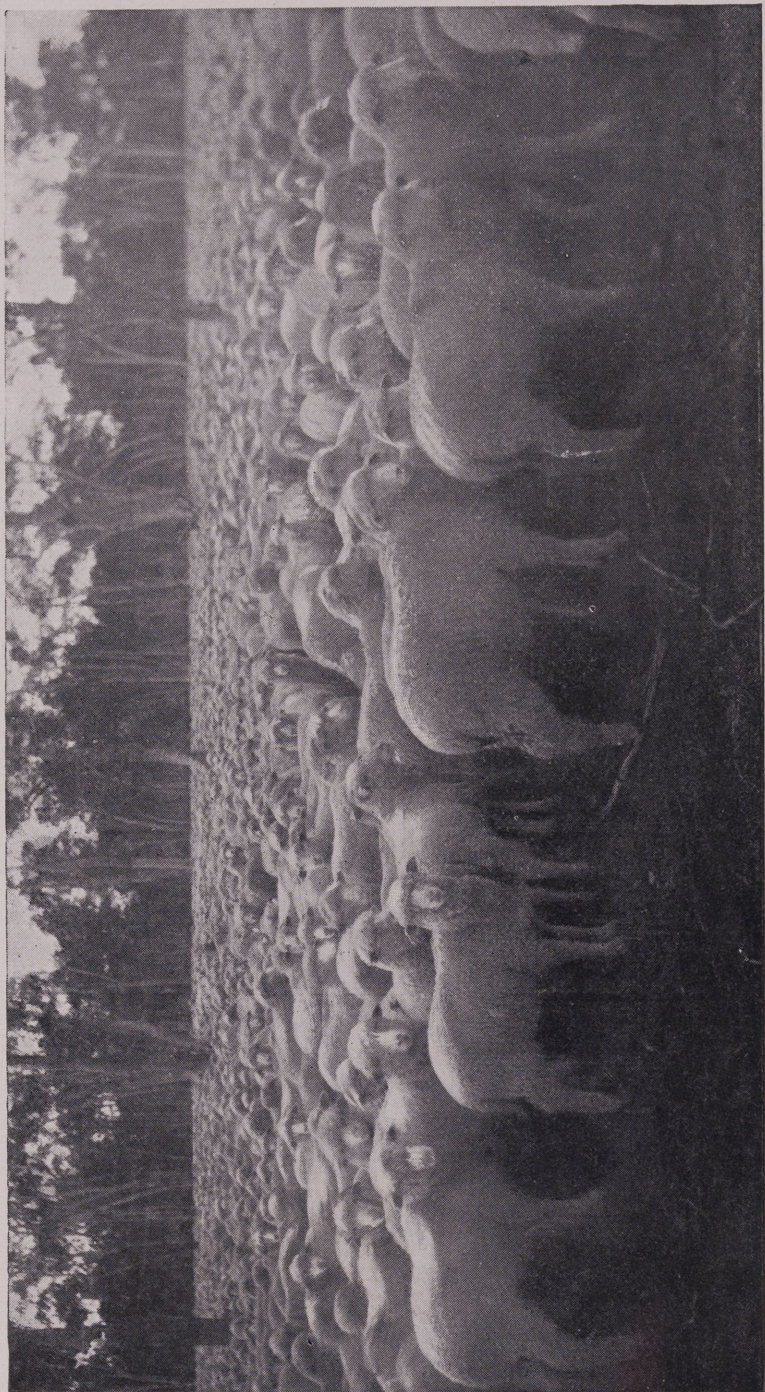
Ignoring those few held in flocks of 50 or less, and combining the second and third groups, it will be seen that 1,543 persons returned flocks of over 50 and up to 5,000, and were the owners of 1,897,215 sheep, or 11 per cent. of the total number.

Small stations, each with from 5,001 to 20,000 sheep, numbered 390, and held 3,911,611 head, or 23 per cent. of all sheep.



Sheep at the Shed.

PASTURAGE. There is no better sheep country in the world than the great Western plains of Queensland. These immense tracts are heavily coated with a variety of fine grasses of splendid nutritive quality, such as the Mitchell, Blue, and Flinders, and, after winter rains, with luxuriant herbage. Some areas are also clothed with salt-bush, a saline shrub particularly well suited to sheep.



Flock of Sheep, mixed ages.

The existence of salt-bush is nearly always indicative of rich pastoral land. Sheep on these great tracts of country are uniformly healthy.



An English Leicester.

**CONDITION
OF FLOCKS.**

In none of the other States of Australia are sheep as free from disease as in Queensland. No scab has existed since 1864, and then only in one or two flocks. Fluke is all but unknown in the State, and malignant foot-rot, which existed in a very few flocks in the Southern part of the State, was stamped out in 1870. In some parts of Queensland the sheep-fly, which infects the wool with maggots, has given some trouble.

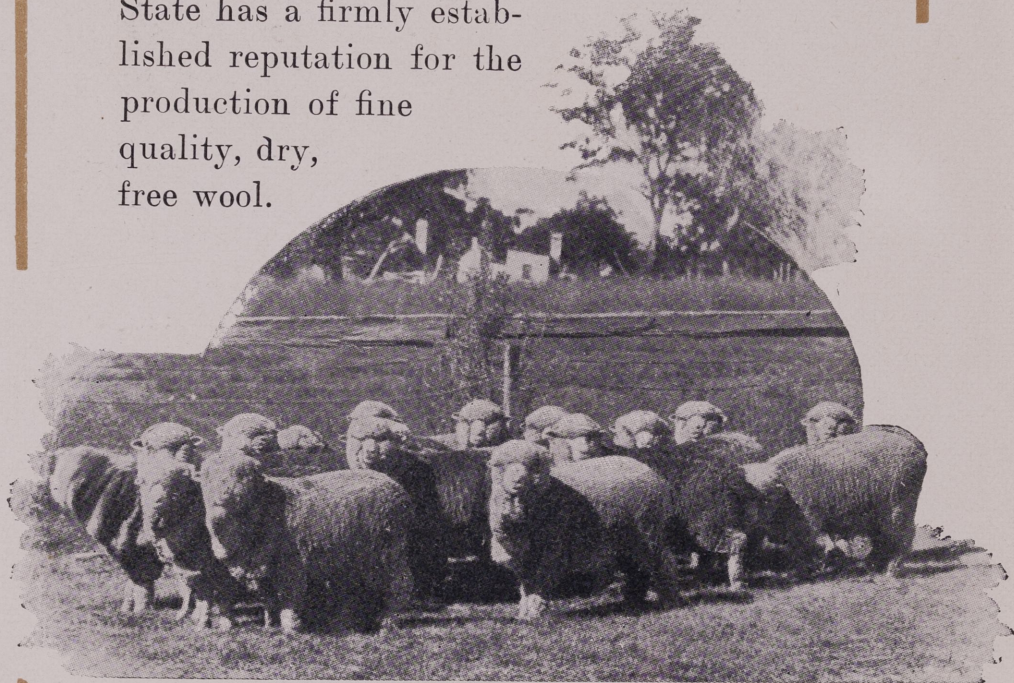


A Homestead.

The fly thrives best in warm, moist weather. Heavy woolled and particularly foldy sheep are the ones usually attacked. The present

reaction against this type of sheep for a more plain-bodied animal is annually making it easier to fight this trouble.

The climate of Western
CLIMATE. Queensland, on account of its dryness and brightness, is particularly well adapted to the growth of merino wool. Its effect is to produce softness, pliancy, and lustre, and so the State has a firmly established reputation for the production of fine quality, dry, free wool.



Stud Merino Ewes, Talgai, West.

Sheep Crossing the Barcoo River, Western Queensland.





**Lincoln
Rams.**

Nearer the coast, under moister conditions, the merino sheep does not do so well. The English mutton breeds and cross-bred sheep, however, will thrive in most parts of Queensland, except the extreme North.

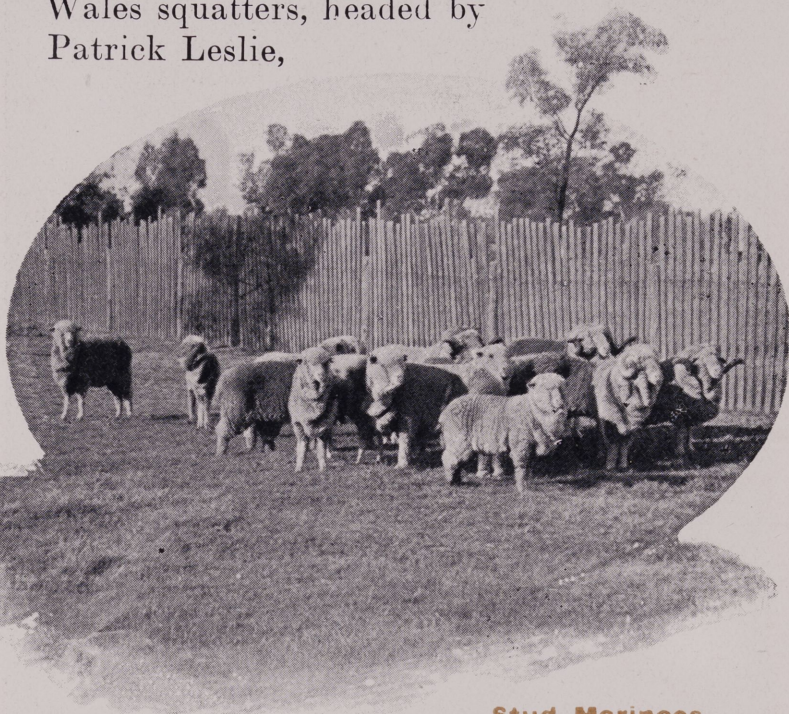
HISTORY. The history of sheep-breeding in Queensland practically dates back to the forties of last century. In New South Wales, as far back as 1795, Captain MacArthur, who did more to establish the merino sheep in Australia than anyone else, owned 1,000 sheep. (In 1792 there were 105 sheep in Australia; to-day there are 108,871,681.)

In 1824 the valley of the Brisbane was



**SHEEP INCREASED FROM 7,000,000 IN 1902
TO 20,000,000 IN 1908.**

the only portion of Queensland occupied by stock, and that only as far up as Ipswich. The nuclei of these flocks came from Sydney by sea. In 1827 Allan Cunningham discovered the Darling Downs. In the early forties some of the New South Wales squatters, headed by Patrick Leslie,



**Stud Merinoes,
Murweh Station.**

forced their way North, and brought their stock on to the Darling Downs by way of Gordon and Bennett's station on the Severn, then the most north-easterly pastoral outpost in Australia. They crossed the McIntyre Brook one mile south of where Inglewood now stands; the track for over

**QUEENSLAND'S WESTERN PASTURES
ARE UNSURPASSED.**



Ewes and Lambs, Woolshed in background.



fifty years being known as "Leslie's marked tree line."

In 1844 there were in the Moreton Bay district 17 stations, carrying 215 horses, 4,028 head of cattle, and 74,420 sheep. On the Darling Downs were 26 stations, with 445 horses, 9,267 cattle, and 110,231 sheep. In 1860 there were in Queensland 23,504 horses, 432,890 cattle, and 3,166,802 sheep. These 3,000,000 sheep have now increased to 20,000,000.

**CHANGED
CONDITIONS.**

In the old days the pastoralists were like the Patriarchs of old. They moved with their flocks and herds in search of new country. A hundred miles of virgin plain or forest would separate one slab-built homestead from another. Fences were unknown.

On the Road.





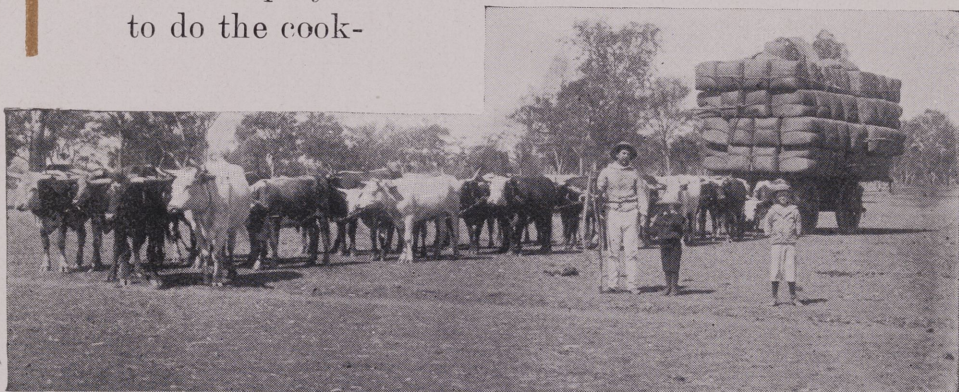
King Billy 39th, who for four years averaged 27 lb. of Wool.
Bred by W. B. Slade, Esq., Glengallan.



Champion Merino Ewe. Bred by W. B. Slade, Esq., Glengallan.



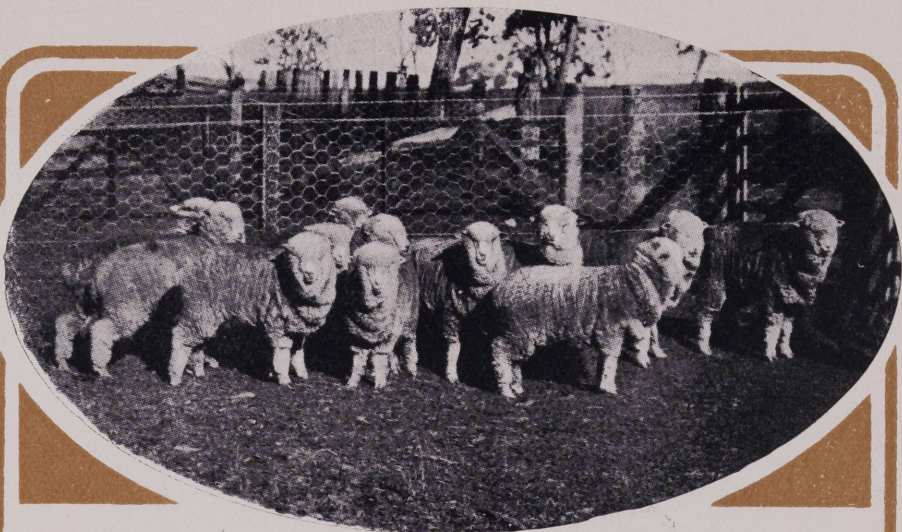
Flocks of from 1,500 in timbered country to 3,000 sheep on the plains were shepherded by a man and a dog, and yarded at night. Two flocks would be camped at an out-station. A hut-keeper was employed to do the cook-



ing, and watch the sheep at night to protect them from wild dogs (dingoes).

The transit of the wool by bullock team to the coast was a tedious affair, lasting months. In addition to the forces of Nature, the gallant pioneers had to contend with the depredations of blacks and ravages of native dogs among their flocks.

Sheep stations are now entirely secured, often with rabbit-proof wire-netting. Sheep are run in paddocks, enclosed by wire fences. On large runs the paddocks are laid out for 5,000 to 15,000 sheep; on small ones, for 2,000 sheep and upwards.



On any country the smaller the paddock and the smaller the number of sheep the better the results. The natural habit of the merino is to roam. In small paddocks they do better, grow heavier fleeces, and fatten quicker. By this method also the inferior grasses are kept from going to seed, and injuring the sheep and wool.

Boundary riders inspect and keep the fences in repair. On large stations 20 hands are often kept constantly employed at wages of £1 per week and rations.



In the settled districts, especially where stud sheep are bred, the paddocks are smaller. Gangs of shearers travel about the country from shed to shed, and earn at the rate of £1 to £2 per day in fine weather taking off the fleece, which is pressed into bales, and loaded on wagons to be conveyed to the nearest railway station.

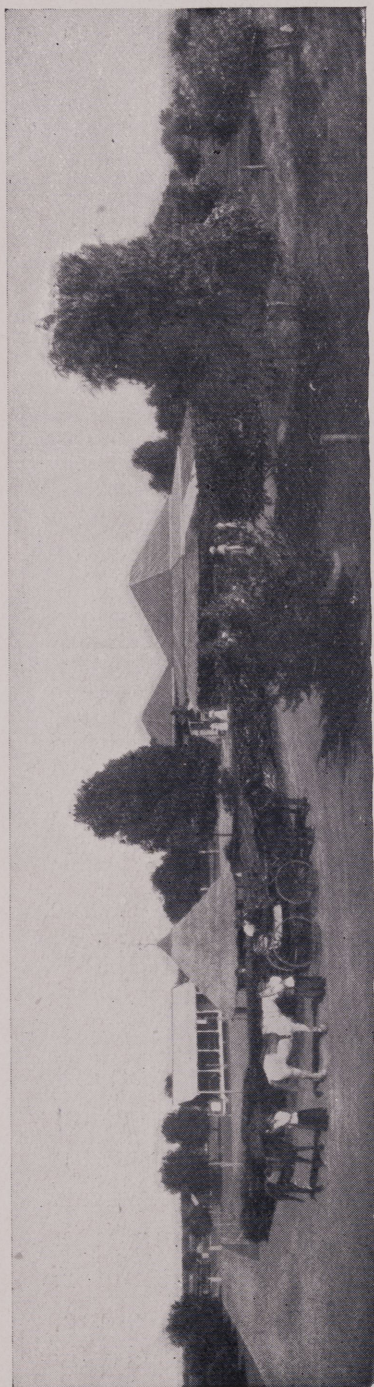


A Modern Shearer.

The modest homesteads have given place to comfortable and often luxurious houses, where, in the heart of the bush, the sheep-owner lives as conveniently as in a city. Telephone communication has been established from station to station in all the great sheep-breeding districts.



A Wool Train.



Some Western Homes.

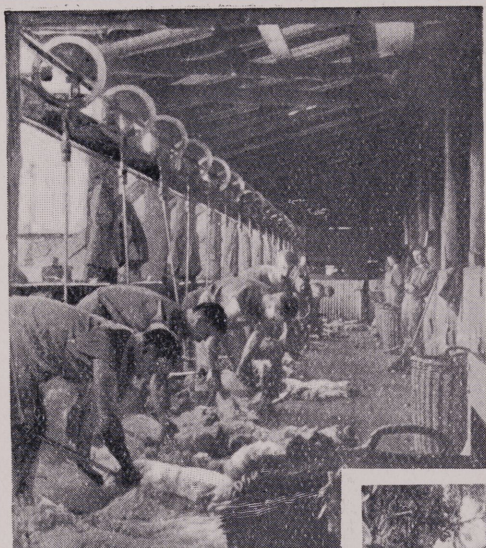


Bathing at an Artesian Bore.

Artesian bores have been put down to enormous depths, and waterless country has been thus won over to the use of sheep and cattle. There are over 1,000 of these bores now in Queensland, many put down by the Government, but many more by private enterprise.

**ARTESIAN
BORES.**

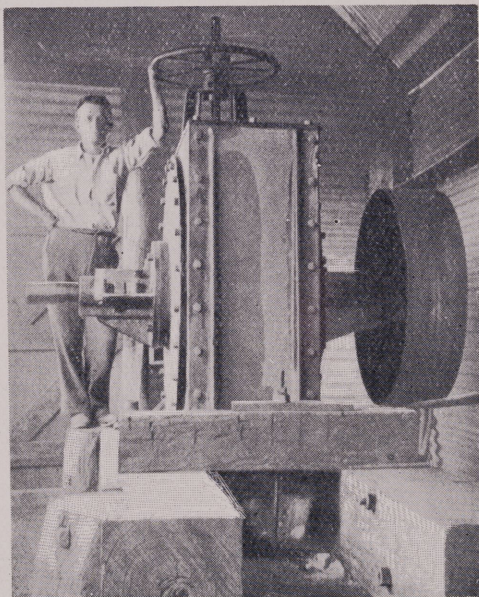
Over a large area of Queensland there is, at varying depths below the surface, an immense strata of porous rock containing practically inexhaustible supplies of water. These supplies are tapped by sinking iron tubes, usually 6 to 8 inches in diameter, vertically in the ground; the earth, stone, or rock encountered being drilled away by



Old Method.



Modern Method.



Machine Shearing by Artesian Water Power.

a machine so as to allow the casing to slip down. Lengths are continually added on, until, in the deepest bores, there is a continuous line of three to four thousand feet of casing carried down into the earth until the water supply is struck.

A Merino Stud Ewe.



The area within which this artesian water can be successfully obtained is getting more clearly defined day by day as further bores are sunk, and it is also becoming possible to say to within a few feet at what depth these priceless supplies of water can be got.

**RAINFALL: FROM 48 INCHES AT BRISBANE TO 150
INCHES IN THE NORTH. WEST OF MAIN RANGE
FROM 30 INCHES TO 10 INCHES.**



Excavated
Tank,
Portland
Downs.

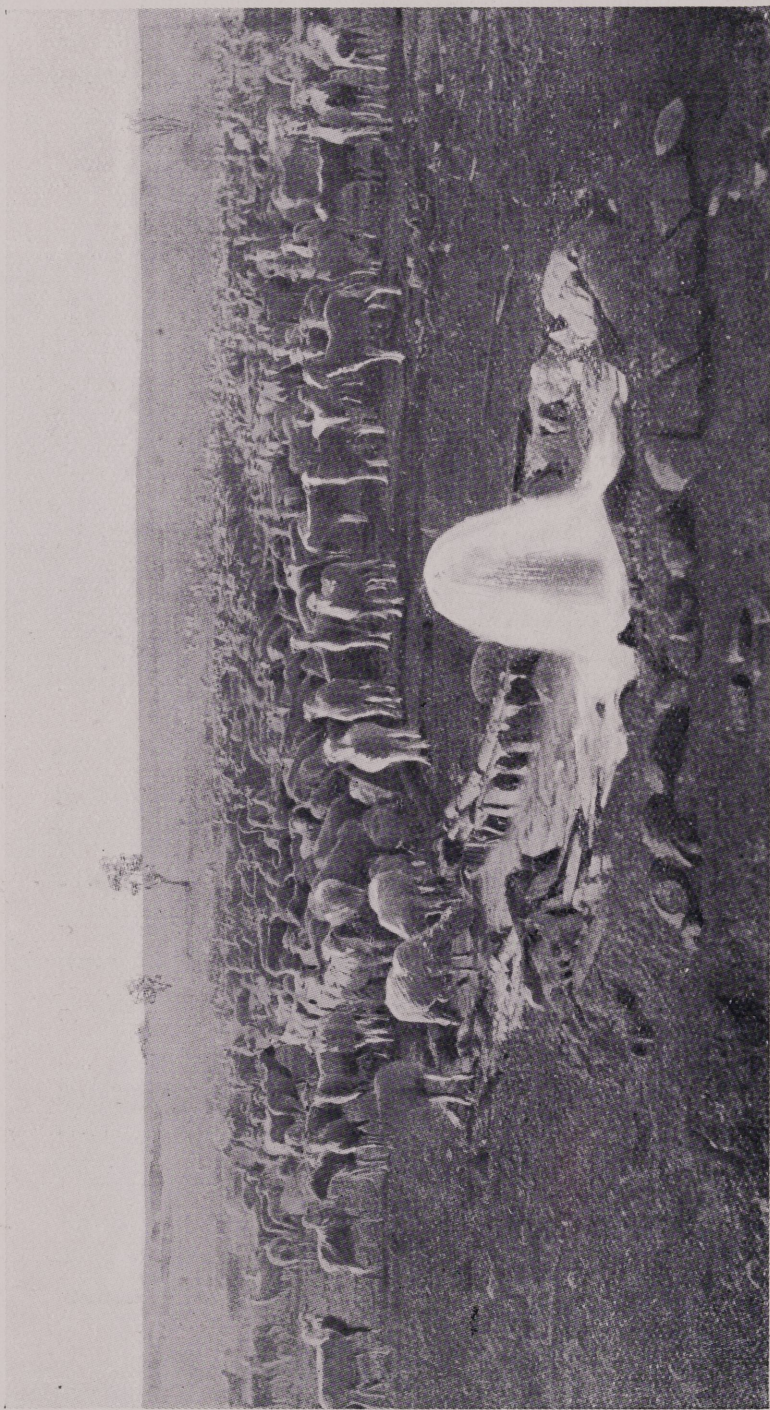


Artesian Water,
Woolerina.

In some districts, the bores need not be sunk more than five or six hundred feet before meeting with good supplies, but in other districts where the water-bearing strata lies at greater depths, operations have to be continued until, as before mentioned, a depth of three or even four thousand feet is attained.

The supplies vary considerably, according to the altitude of the site where the bore is sunk, and amount perhaps from 20,000 gallons of flowing water per day up to a couple of million gallons. Some bores in the Cunnamulla district yield much more.

**QUEENSLAND PRODUCED 188,307 TONS
OF SUGAR IN 1907.**



Sheep Watering at an Artesian Bore.

In some of the successful bores the water rushes upwards to a height of 10 or 15 feet, and in many instances is of very considerable heat when it emerges from the top of the bore casing.



**Woollerina Bore,
2,908 feet:
750,000 gallons
daily.**



Murweh, No. 1 Bore, 1,800 ft: 3,000,000 gal. daily.

In other districts where a flowing or artesian supply of water cannot be obtained, there are good supplies of sub-artesian water obtainable at depths of from 50 to 300 feet, which is lifted to the surface by means of windmills or steam engines.



Eulolo, No. 2 Bore: 4,000,000 gallons daily.

Of late years it has become a common practice to locate this subterranean water by the old-time expedient of employing a water diviner, or, as he was called in the rural districts of England, a “dowser,” and several men who are gifted with the strange power of detecting the presence of underground streams of water are continuously engaged in selecting suitable sites. There are, of course, a certain proportion of failures, but the general success may be gauged from the fact that some of the water diviners undertake to sink these wells, finding casing and everything, at a cost of 15s. a foot, on the stipulation—“No water, no pay.” For the deeper wells the cost is 12s. to 17s. for the first thousand feet, the borer finding casing and all needed material and supplies.

When the nature of the country admits, water from these flowing bores is led in channels, usually 6 feet wide with a minimum depth of 1 foot, over miles of country, thus watering many paddocks and enabling the stock to water with a minimum of travelling.

**LARGE
STATIONS.**

On large stations, carrying 200,000 sheep and over, the homestead is surrounded by what is practically a small township—consisting of the woolshed, stores, various offices, houses of the employees, &c. Telephone, and often telegraph, lines connect it with the nearest railway station and other sheep runs in the district. Thus it is possible for business to be conducted in half an hour with city agents in Sydney and Brisbane.



A Typical Western Bore.



**Glengallan Merino
Stud Rams**



Ashgrove Woolshed.





Typical Shearers' Quarters.

Comfortable quarters are provided for all employees. The Shearers' Accommodation Act specifies that sleeping and living arrangements for shearers have to be up to a certain standard. The shearers are, therefore, well housed. They provide their own cook and rations, and receive 24s. per 100 for all sheep shorn.

During shearing time the station has the appearance of a well-regulated machine. The pace is rapid, but every man has his own special work to look after. Musterers are constantly arriving with sheep for the shears, or driving off those already shorn to their paddocks. In the woolshed the heavy thrum of the machines driving the shears goes on from daylight to dark, with short intervals for dinner and refreshment.

**QUEENSLAND EXPORTS NEARLY £600,000
WORTH OF BUTTER ANNUALLY.**



A Mob of Wethers from Cecil Plains, Darling Downs.



Long lines of men stoop busily over their work. Each man pauses only to let a shorn sheep go into the pen in front, and carry another kicking

animal from the pen behind him. As the fleeces fall from the sheep the pickers-up quickly carry and throw them out on tables. The wool-rollers then skirt and roll up each fleece, placing it on the sorter's table close at hand. This expert immediately classifies them, and has them consigned to their respective bins, each description of wool being stocked in its particular bin. The pressers next remove and press each sort in separate bales, and on each bale is placed a brand denoting class of sheep and quality of wool.



Branding Bales.



Machine Shearing, Barcaldine Woolscour.

Tarboys dart hither and thither as the cry of "Tar" arises, where a sheep has been cut by the shears. In a few weeks it is all



over. The wool of 200,000 sheep is in the bales, most of it is already on its way to port; and the sheep are back in their various paddocks growing a fresh crop of the golden fleece.

**SHEARING
SEASONS.**

Shearing begins in January, and goes on pretty well up to December in the colder districts. On the Darling Downs it starts in August, and goes on to February. In the West from March to September is the shearing season. Shearing operations on most stations—except very large ones—last from a month to six weeks.

The shearers then move on to the next shearing shed.

The period for lamb shearing varies according to the seasons.



The general opinion among sheep-owners is that it pays to shear all lambs that have sufficient wool to pay the cost of shearing them, at the end of the general shearing.





Sheep at a Western Shed.

**GRAZING
FARMS.**

In recent years many portions of the large sheep runs, held on leasehold tenure, have been resumed by the Government, and cut up into blocks of about 10,000 to 20,000 acres as Grazing Farms. Many have settled upon these holdings in the Western country, and are doing well.

The first cost of acquiring a Grazing Farm of 20,000 acres from the Crown would be (at 2d. an acre rent) £166 13s. 4d. first rent, and £60 survey fee; the latter being payable in five equal annual instalments.

**QUEENSLAND HAS PRODUCED OVER
£88,601,118 WORTH OF MINERALS.**

The cost of necessary improvements, &c., to put the farm in working order would be about £2,400, made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
First year's rent, £166 13s. 4d.; $\frac{1}{5}$ survey fee	178	13	4
Fencing: 23 miles, less 7 miles contributed by adjoining selectors—16 miles at £30 ...	480	0	0
Hut and sheepyard, £75; woolshed, 5 shearers, £70	145	0	0
Woolpress, £20; dray, £15	35	0	0
Harness, tools, and sundries	40	0	0
Three draught horses	60	0	0
Five saddle horses	50	0	0
One man's wages and rations	100	0	0
<p>Artesian bore. The cost of this item of course largely depends on the locality in which it is put down, the average depth in the country under consideration is 1,050 feet; 17s. 6d. per foot complete is the ruling price 1,050 feet at 17s. 6d. per foot ...</p>			
	918	15	0
<p>But if the selection is convenient to a bore on an adjoining property, arrangements can be made for watering at so much per annum, the usual charge being £50 a year.</p>			
House and outbuildings	330	0	0
Sundry	62	11	8
	2,400	0	0

To start with, the sheep required would probably be as follows:—

Breeding ewes: 3,000 at 8s.	1,200	0	0
Rams: 50 at £3 3s.	157	10	0
Wethers off shears: 3,000 at 7s.	1,050	0	0
(At present sheep are cheap.)	2,407	10	0
Total	£4,807	10	0

N.B.—A stock agent of wide experience gives the following as a fair average price for sheep—viz., 9s. to 11s. for fat merino wethers—proportionately less for shorn, and from 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. for good stores off the shears. Young fat ewes, culled for wool, 2s. to 2s. 6d. less than fat wethers, and aged ewes at boiling rates.



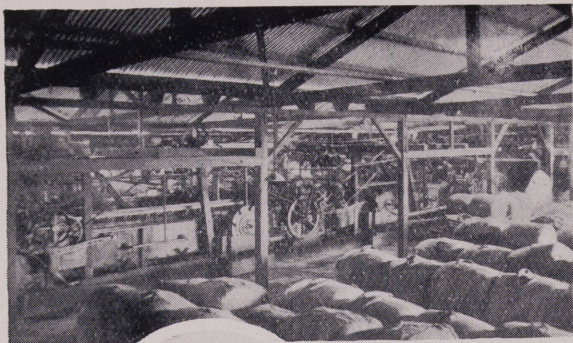
Sheep ready for Drafting, Barcoo.

With these improvements the farm could work 6,000 sheep safely; this number, with ordinary management, should return £600 a year net for the clip, exclusive of sales of surplus stock, after paying all expenses; and the carrying capacity of the country may be somewhat increased by subdividing

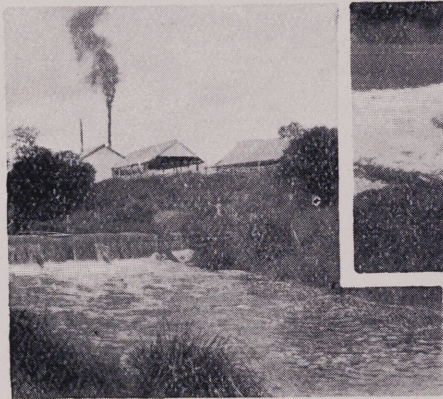


Western Sheep Watering.

and ringbarking in timbered country, even to the extent of 500 extra sheep for each subdivision up to a certain limit—that is to say, if the farm is divided into two paddocks, it will carry 7,000; if into three paddocks, 7,500; if four, 8,000 sheep in good seasons.



**Woolscouring
and
Wooldrying.**



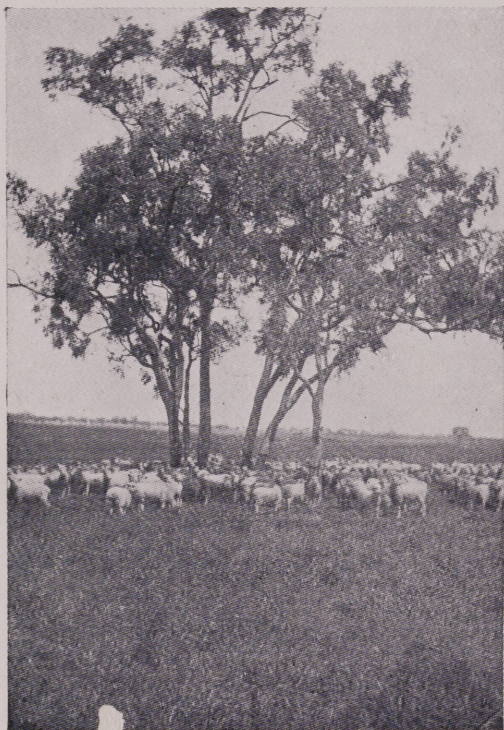


**A Western
Homestead.**

**COST OF
WORKING.**

This is not an easy matter to estimate, as methods differ. Many practical men consider that it averages from £70 to £110 per 1,000, according to the number of sheep. It is generally understood that it costs 5d. per lb. to grow wool and land it at the sale-room. It may be safely said, however, that if a capital of, say, £5,000 to £6,000 is invested in a selection of, say, 20,000 acres, carrying 7,000 to 8,000 sheep, very good returns could be obtained by a steady, capable man. Assuming a net profit of 2s. per sheep, from the clip on the higher number, this would be £800 per annum. The profits, of course, depend on the seasons and price of wool, but in fair seasons an average price of 8d. per lb. for greasy wool in Queensland markets is a fair calculation. To the £800 should be added the returns from the annual sale of surplus stock—say,





2,000 sheep, at 5s. per head (putting it low)--viz., £500, or a total of £1,300. This return on a capital expenditure of £6,000 is very good, and allows of the formation of a good reserve against bad seasons, or low prices.

The manager of a large Western station says: I would estimate the cost of working as follows:—

Shearing and rouseabouts ...	5½d. per sheep.
Scouring and classing ...	2½d. „
Carriage	5d. „
Rent	2½d. „
Sundries	4½d. „
	<hr/>
	20d. „

He further remarks—

The returns all depend on who is in charge. It is not always the man who can run a show at a low cost per 1,000 that comes out on top. Low cost of management is the thing that takes with a company or a bank, and many managers have to work on a limit, but it is a bad policy.



Wool on the Green.



A Western Dam.

Taking the cost of working, therefore, at 1s. 8d. per sheep, at the lowest limit, and 2s. per sheep at the highest, some idea of the average cost may be gathered.



A Romney Marsh Ewe.

**MODERN
METHODS.**

The present system of wool-growing is very far removed from the old rule-of-thumb methods. Nowadays everything is conducted on scientific lines, to which every year keen and experienced brains contribute an improvement.



Merino Ewes.

A writer has admirably summed up the prevailing order of sheep-farming in Australia in these words:—

The sheep are cared for on a system calculated to obtain the best results in the shortest space of time. The property will be comprehensively divided by sound fences. The sheep are worked in separate lots. Lambing ewes are kept together. After weaning, the weaners are put on the best feed. Young wethers are also kept on good feed, and as many as possible are fattened off. The practice is to cull the flocks every year, thus keeping the best, and constantly improving the

average wool capacity. Many stations have stud flocks, and breed rams for their flocks, introducing fresh blood from time to time.



A Western Ram.

Train Delivering Wool for Sale and Shipping.



The season in Queensland
PROSPECTS. for 1907 was looked upon by
pioneers as one of the best in
their recollection.

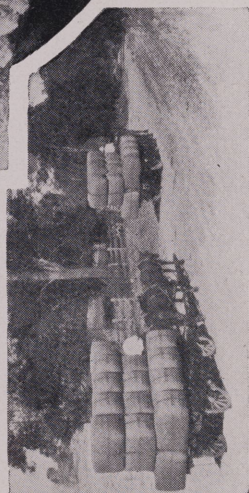
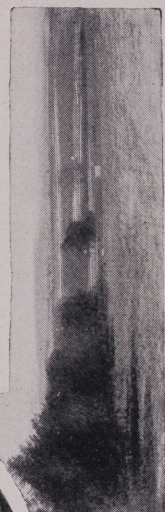
For 1908 the season was above the average, good rains having fallen over the greater part of the West. The copious rainfall in the latter months of the year have ensured splendid prospects for 1909.



Tailing Lambs.

Good demand continues for all properties at increasing values, whilst in certain districts of the State, particularly the Darling Downs, closer settlement is developing very rapidly, and combined farming is taking the place of large herds and flocks.

Lambing throughout Queensland last year may be considered good, and above the average. The lambs, meeting with favourable weather, and an abundant supply of feed during their growth, did well, and an all-round percentage of 55 to 60 per cent. was reared.



Shearing and Woolclassing.



Wool in the Salerooms.



A well-known flock master of long experience has given it as his opinion that—

The flocks in Queensland to-day contain 75 per cent. of females—a unique situation. No female sheep have gone out of the State since 1903. In the flocks under my control, which altogether total 500,000 sheep, the lambing has reached 150 per cent., some of the ewes lambing twice in the year, and I believe the same applies pretty generally to the whole of Queensland. But this course can only be followed in years when copious rainfalls occur.

Stations are now pretty well stocked up, and flock masters are once again able to cull their breeding ewes, &c., which should result in an all-round improvement in the flocks. The outlook for the whole State is excellent.



A Western
Merino Ram.

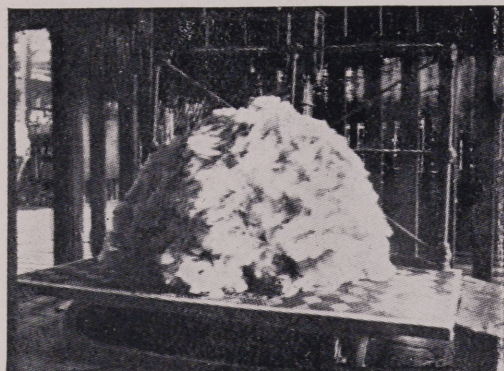
The average value of the clip for 1907, as declared at the Customs, was slightly better than that of 1906. The values for each of the five years were as follows:—

					GREASY. Per lb.	CLEAN. Per lb.
1903	...	...	...	...	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$
1904	...	...	...	...	$8\frac{5}{8}$	$16\frac{1}{8}$
1905	...	...	...	...	$9\frac{1}{2}$	17
1906	...	...	...	...	$9\frac{3}{4}$	$18\frac{1}{3}$
1907	...	...	...	...	10	$18\frac{4}{5}$

The value for 1907 was the best of the quinquennium—namely, 10d. per lb. for greasy and $18\frac{4}{5}$ d. per lb. for scoured. There was practically a progressive rise in price for each year of the five, culminating in the figure just quoted.

The manager of a large sheep-shearing company states that for a period of ten years the average price per bale for wool shorn by them works out at about £14 per bale, weighing 3 cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lb. (greasy wool). Average weight per fleece, 6 lb. $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz.





Statement showing the weight of fleece per sheep in Queensland, as shown by deductions from the Government Statistician's records of exports of wool and

number of stock each year from 1891 to 1897, and from 1900 to 1906:—

Year.	Number of Sheep.	Less Proportion of Sheep for Freezing, and Exported across the Border.	Total Number of Sheep Shorn.	Wool Exported Oversea and to Other States (Greasy) lb.	Net Average lb. per Sheep.
1891	20,289,633	75,566	20,214,067	111,103,395	5.50
1892	21,708,310	292,333	21,415,977	136,719,078	6.38
1893	18,697,015	1,344,225	17,352,790	117,800,366	6.79
1894	19,587,691	659,603	18,928,088	116,343,670	6.15
1895	19,856,959	643,052	19,213,907	120,403,002	6.27
1896	19,593,696	373,980	19,219,716	119,958,959	6.24
1897	17,797,883	1,610,638	16,187,245	102,443,102	6.33
	137,531,187	4,999,397	132,531,790	824,771,572	43.66
Average over 7 years					6.23
1900	10,339,185	459,794	9,879,391	64,687,750	6.54
1901	10,030,971	66,057	9,964,914	70,603,350	7.08
1902	7,213,985	154,502	7,059,483	41,874,118	5.92
1903	8,392,044	57,713	8,334,331	53,741,911	6.44
1904	10,843,470	250,896	10,592,574	65,852,303	6.22
1905	12,535,231	525,188	12,010,043	70,168,980	5.84
1906	14,886,438	309,677	14,576,761	89,893,876	6.16
	74,241,324	1,823,827	72,417,497	456,827,288	44.20
Average over 7 years					6.36

NOTE.—In order to arrive at a basis of greasy wool, scoured weights have been doubled. The average of clean to greasy is about 47 per cent.



There were 15,428,902 sheep returned as shorn during 1907; these, with 1,399,870 lambs unshorn, makes 16,828,772, or 90,725

more sheep than were returned as depastured at the end of that year. The wool aggregated 77,860,948 lb., of which 61,408,872 was returned as in grease and 16,452,076 as scoured or washed.

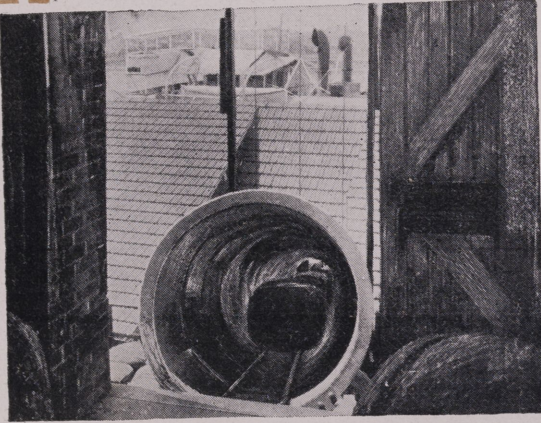
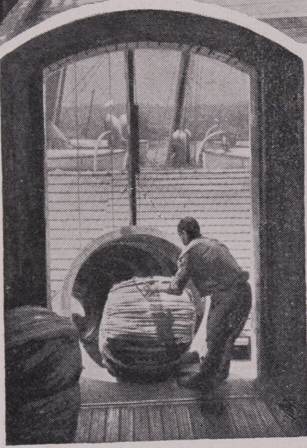


A Wool Saleroom.

If each pound of scoured wool be taken as representing 2 lb. of greasy, the average weight of each fleece in the grease was 6.11 lb.



Shipping Wool.





Selling Stud Sheep.

The Export trade has been most satisfactory, Queensland wools taking a high place in the markets, having for the most part reached the top point in the matter of price—

EXPORTS.

Year.	Greasy.	Value.	Scoured.	Value.
	Lb.	£	Lb.	£
1903 ...	15,712,735	559,301	19,016,088	1,308,373
1904 ...	25,379,150	917,715	17,726,377	1,186,359
1905 ...	35,976,474	1,431,336	17,096,253	1,218,414
1906 ...	47,765,356	1,923,667	19,172,745	1,465,262
1907 ...	60,968,961	2,518,150	20,613,655	1,614,980

There were 81,582,616 lb. of wool exported in 1907, valued at £4,133,130, as against 66,938,101 lb., valued at £3,388,929, in 1906, an increase of 14,644,515 lb.



Artesian Water Baths

The average weight of each bale of greasy wool was 365 lb., and that of the scoured 232 lb.

Of the total shipments for 1907, 45,755,075 lb. were Oversea, and 35,827,541 lb. "Interstate."



A Shropshire Ram.

**SHEEP PUT
TO PROFIT,
1906-07.**

The number of sheep put to profit for the years 1906 and 1907, whether preserved, frozen, boiled down, killed for home consumption, or exported, was as follow:—

	1906.	1907.
Preserved, frozen, and boiled down	119,533	255,635
Exported, less number imported ...	272,755	790,622
Estimated number killed for food for home consumption	341,444	396,958
	<hr/> 733,732	<hr/> 1,443,215

**QUEENSLAND'S DEATH RATE IS 10·35 PER 1,000:
ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD.**



Shropshire Sheep on a State Farm.

It must, therefore, be remembered that 1,443,215 have to be added to the numerical increase of 1,851,609 for 1907 to properly appreciate the progress of the Pastoral Industry from this source. This makes the total production of sheep 3,294,824 for 1907.



A Lincoln Ram.

**FROZEN LAMB
AND MUTTON
TRADE.**

All the frozen lambs in the Queensland trade are exported from Brisbane, and are slaughtered at Redbank, Eagle Farm, Murarrie, and Queensport. These lambs come chiefly from the Darling Downs, and are nearly all Shropshires, Lincolns, and Leicesters. The lamb season begins about November, and continues until April or May. The lamb most in request in the London market is one that will give from 30 lb. to 40 lb. dressed meat.



A Shropshire.

It does not matter for the trade how light the lamb is, provided it is fat; but it matters a good deal if lambs are too heavy. In

the latter occasion they are objected to as hoggets. The lambs, if possible, should be off their mothers. If weaned for some time previous to slaughtering, the meat loses its lamb-like flavour. People in London want a lamb weighing about 35 lb.

The frozen lamb industry is one capable of great expansion, and as the tendency of farmers is more and more to go in for mixed farming, lamb-raising should prove a very profitable item.

Good business continues to be done in the frozen mutton trade. At present there is not a great deal being sent to London. More is being sent to Liverpool. Africa is taking a great deal of Queensland's frozen mutton.



A Shropshire.



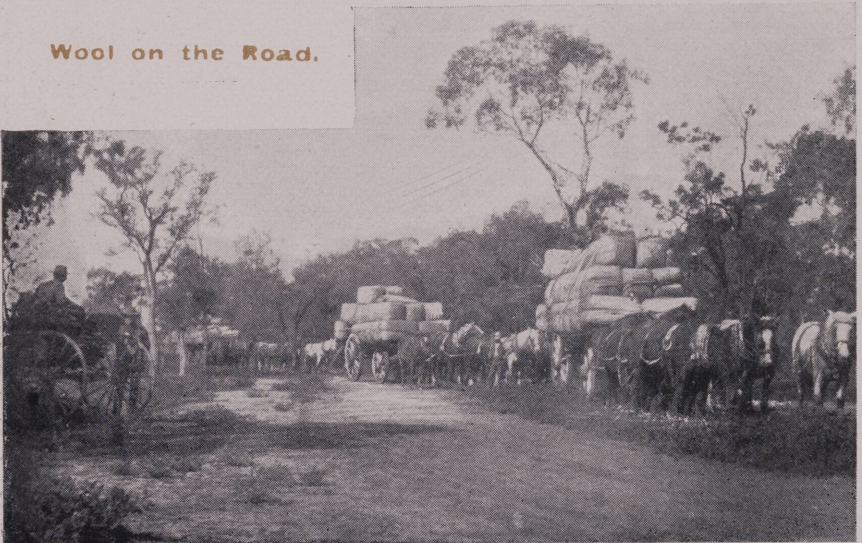
A Group of Modern Shearers.



Crossbreds.

The trade is generally most active from November to the middle of the next year, the summer months being the briskest.

Wool on the Road.



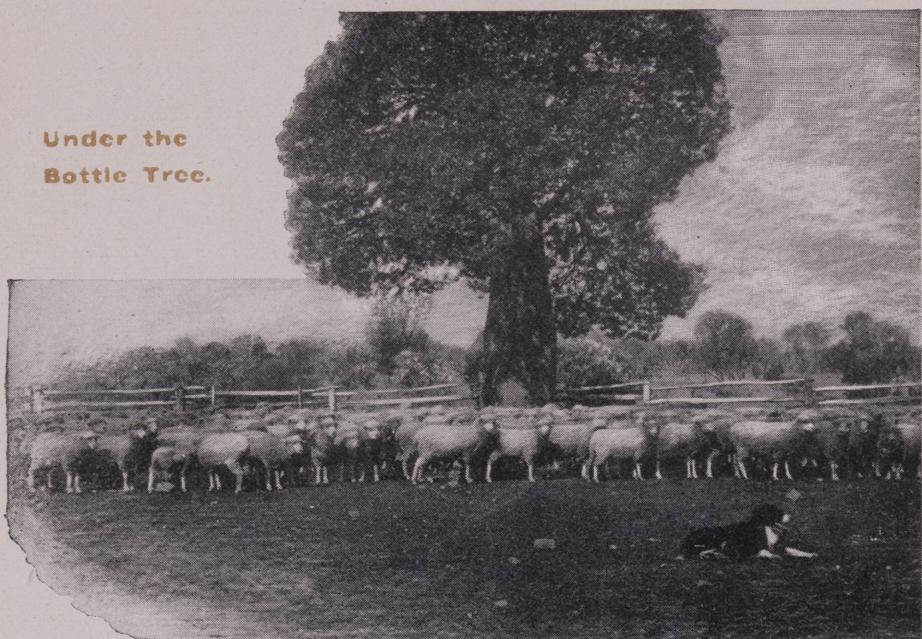
**SHEARERS
AND SHED
HANDS.**

There is no more profitable occupation in the world for working men than shearing. The shearers work for a few months only during the year, at rates shown in the following paragraph. Many of them possess farms of their own, which they are enabled to develop by the substantial cheques earned in a short period.



Fat Sheep in the Yards, Darling Downs.

Under the
Bottle Tree.



Up to the year 1907 the rate for shearing was £1 per 100. On this basis the average earnings for shearers in Queensland was as follows:—

					£	s.	d.	
1904	...	...	...	...	3	18	9	per week.
1905	...	...	...	...	4	5	0	„
1906	...	...	...	...	4	8	3	„

The average cost for rations over the whole of Queensland, including cook's wages, was 18s. per week, which has to be deducted from the above total, making the net earnings of the shearer—

					£	s.	d.	
1904	...	...	...	...	3	0	9	per week.
1905	...	...	...	...	3	7	0	„
1906	...	...	...	...	3	10	2	„

Since 1907 the shearing rate has been 24s. per hundred, which was fixed by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Court.

Men who are expert at the work can earn from £1 10s. to £2 per day in fine weather.

For men who work at the sheds during shearing, the wages range from 27s. 6d. to 30s. per week and rations. Cooks get 4s. per week per man.

**SHEARERS'
RATIONS, ETC.**

Flour, sugar, tea, coffee,
mutton, beef, pork, bacon,
eggs, cheese, potatoes, butter,
curry, hops, pickles, peas,



First truck loads of Wool to leave Cunnamulla.

vinegar, sauce (Tomato sauce and Holbrook's sauce), salt, baking powder, raisins, currants, rice, milk, jam, syrup, cornflour, spice, arrowroot, essence, oatmeal, apples, pumpkins, onions, pepper, mustard, sago, cream of tartar, soda, plums, carraway seeds, ginger, nutmeg, maizena, lemon-peel,

**THE PASTORAL INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTES HALF OF
ALL EXPORTS OF HOME PRODUCTION**



cloves, hop beer, lexias, dried fruits, icing sugar, treacle, honey, ham, apricots, pears, dried herbs, cochineal, prunes, thyme. Ink, candles, knives, stationery, soap, and pipes.

**SHED HANDS'
RATIONS, ETC.**

Tea, plums, curry, rice, salt, sago, cream of tartar, soda, hops, currants, pepper, sugar, potatoes, onions, peas, mustard, flour, beef, mutton, lexias, vinegar, spice, ginger, sauce, lemon-peel, cornflour, oatmeal, eggs, apples, pickles, coffee, butter, raisins, milk, baking powder, jam, syrup, arrowroot, pumpkins, essence, bacon. Candles and soap.

**EVERY CROP FOUND IN THE WORLD'S MARKETS
CAN BE GROWN IN QUEENSLAND.**



Woolclassing, Technical College, Brisbane.

Wool-classing is the best paid work in connection with shearing. Wool-classers can earn from £250 to £600 a year, according to their ability and business connection. At the Technical College, Brisbane, wool-classing is taught by an expert, the fees being £5 5s. a term of 14 weeks. For night students (2 nights per week) the fee is £1 15s.



A Western Ram.

The Pastoral Industry in 1907 contributed nearly half of all exports of home production.

That is to say: Out of a total value of £14,407,466 the Pastoral Industry returned £7,034,877, or 49 per cent. This was £1,396,357, and 3·75 per cent. better than in the previous year 1906.

Of this £7,034,877, wool contributed £4,133,130, or 59 per cent.

Add to this the 1,443,215 sheep that were either killed for consumption, &c., or exported, at 8s. 6d. per head. This returns £613,366.

Wool and sheep, therefore, returned £4,746,496, and is still the leading industry of Queensland.



Western Sheep.

EXPORTS OF HOME PRODUCTION.

	1906.	Percentage Total Exports (Home Produce).	1907.	Percentage Total Exports (Home Produce).
	£		£	
Agricultural ...	2,725,078	21·78	2,797,479	19·42
Pastoral ...	5,638,520	45·07	7,034,877	48·82
Mineral ...	3,602,940	28·80	4,016,609	27·88
Other ...	544,679	4·35	558,501	3·88
Total ...	12,511,217	100·00	14,407,466	100·00



PASTORAL EXPORTS FOR 1906-1907.

	1906.	1907.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£
Wool	3,388,929	4,133,130	744,201
Live Stock	1,122,138	1,405,177	283,039
Meat (all kinds, including Extract)	556,424	782,381	225,957
Tallow	181,388	235,824	54,436
Hides and Skins ...	295,425	389,257	93,832
All other	94,216	89,108	— 5,108
Total	5,638,520	7,034,877	1,396,357

SOME PASTORAL STATISTICS.

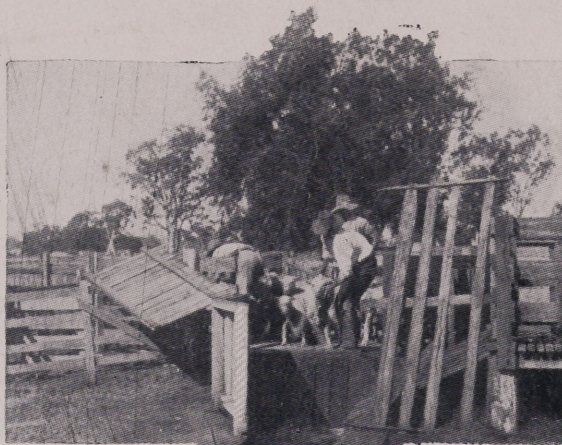
THE LIVE STOCK OF QUEENSLAND, 1898-1907.

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1898 ...	480,469	5,571,292	17,552,608	127,081
1899 ...	479,127	5,053,836	15,226,479	139,118
1900 ...	456,788	4,078,191	10,339,185	122,187
1901 ...	462,119	3,772,707	10,030,971	121,641
1902 ...	399,122	2,543,471	7,213,985	77,202
1903 ...	401,984	2,481,717	8,392,044	117,553
1904 ...	413,165	2,722,340	10,843,470	185,141
1905 ...	430,565	2,963,695	12,535,231	164,087
1906 ...	452,916	3,413,919	14,886,438	138,282
1907 ...	488,486	3,892,232	16,738,047	133,246





Ewes and Winter Lambs, Cecil Plains.



**Dipping
Sheep.**

There were
returned, on
31st December,
1907, 16,738,047

sheep, against 14,886,438 in 1906, or an
actual increase of 1,851,609, and a propor-
tional one of 12 per cent.

This return shows the marvellous re-
covery made in flocks and herds from their
lowest point in 1902—the dry year—to
date. This increase in sheep was brought
about by the pastoralists securing two
lambings yearly in good pastoral areas.

**IN 20 YEARS QUEENSLAND TURNED OUT 1,323,816,120
FEET OF MANUFACTURED TIMBER**

636.3
SHE



BY AUTHORITY:

A. J. CUMMING, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, BRISBANE.

1909.